



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913
PH (517) 373.1707 | FAX (517) 373.3935
www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/toy/

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, March 21, 2003

Contact: Heather Lombardini
(517) 373-1707

Statement from Senator Laura Toy (R-Livonia) sponsor of Senate Bill 195 on Governor Granholm's veto of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department reform bill.

"Today, Governor Granholm turned her back on the 4.3 million people in Southeast Michigan served by the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department. Instead of signing a bill that would help assure residents that their water is safe, reliable and affordable, she chose to galvanize the status quo of fraud and mismanagement that has come to signify the Detroit water system.

"I sponsored SB 195 because the residents of Southeast Michigan -- the overwhelming majority of the customers of the Detroit system -- are tired of paying higher water rates which they have no control over. They are tired of paying inflated rates to pay for extravagant public relations campaigns and other programs that have nothing to do with the delivery of water. And, they are tired of paying the tab for the fraud and mismanagement they read about all too frequently in the newspapers. My bill gave these customers a voice over how their water is managed and how rates are set. I am proud of the fact that my bill keeps control of the Water and Sewerage Department with the City of Detroit at the same time assuring everyone in Southeast Michigan that their water is safe, reliable and affordable.

"I share Governor Granholm's desire to 'work as partners in crafting laws that benefit our state.' My bill -- the first presented for her signature, was a positive first step toward that goal. But her veto of this bill is unsatisfactory. The Legislature worked hard on this bill to resolve a problem that has existed for 30 years. Governor Granholm's veto just perpetuates a problem that the people of Southeast Michigan have wanted fixed for three decades. In the absence of legislation, fraud, mismanagement, and higher water rates will continue. In a time of heightened national security, there is still no assurance that our water is safe, reliable and affordable."